



## Florida—State Resource Guide

### State Mental Health Agency

For more information about admission, care, treatment, release, and patient follow-up in public or private psychiatric residential facilities, contact your State mental health agency:

Lucy D. Hadi, Secretary  
Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Boulevard  
Building 1, Room 202  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700  
Phone: 850-488-8304  
Fax: 850-487-2239  
E-mail: [dcf-osc@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:dcf-osc@dcf.state.fl.us)  
Internet: [www.state.fl.us/cf\\_web](http://www.state.fl.us/cf_web)

*Spanish language assistance available*

### State Substance Abuse Agency

Contact your State substance abuse agency for information about treatment and care of substance abuse disorders:

Substance Abuse Program Office  
Department of Children and Families  
1317 Winewood Boulevard  
Building 6, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0700  
Phone: 850-921-8461  
Fax: 850-414-7474  
Internet: [www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/sa](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/sa)

### State Protection and Advocacy Agency

Each State has a protection and advocacy agency that receives funding from the Federal Center for Mental Health Services. Agencies are mandated to protect and advocate for the rights of people with mental illnesses and to investigate reports of abuse and neglect in facilities that care for or treat individuals with mental illnesses. These facilities, which may be public or private, include hospitals, nursing homes, community facilities, board and

care homes, homeless shelters, jails, and prisons. Agencies provide advocacy services or conduct investigations to address issues that arise during transportation or admission to such facilities, during residency in them, or within 90 days after discharge from them. Contact:

Gary Weston, Executive Director  
The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.  
2728 Centerview Drive, Suite 102  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-488-9071  
Toll-free: 800-342-0823  
Suncom: 278-9071  
TDD: 800-346-4127  
Fax: 850-488-8640  
E-mail: [info@advocacycenter.org](mailto:info@advocacycenter.org)  
Internet: [www.advocacycenter.org](http://www.advocacycenter.org)

*Spanish language assistance available*

### Family Support

The Center for Mental Health Services awards grants to statewide, family-run networks to provide support and information to families of children and adolescents with serious emotional, behavioral, or mental disorders. For more information, contact:

Connie J. Wells, Executive Director  
Florida Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health  
A Project of the Florida Institute for Family Involvement  
3927 Spring Creek Highway  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
Phone: 850-926-4230  
Toll-free: 877-926-3514  
Fax: 240-358-6542  
E-mail: [cjwells@sprynet.com](mailto:cjwells@sprynet.com)  
Internet: [www.fifionline.org](http://www.fifionline.org)

### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which are part of the Department of Health and Human Services, investigate some complaints about treatment facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid funding. For further information at the national level, contact:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850  
Phone: 410-786-3000  
Toll-free: 877-267-2323  
TDD: 866-226-1819  
E-mail: [question@cms.gov](mailto:question@cms.gov)  
Internet: [www.CMS.gov](http://www.CMS.gov)

You may also share your concerns with staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services office in your area, which is Region 4. The regional office address and telephone numbers are:

Atlanta Regional Office  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, Southwest, Suite 4T40  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Phone: 404-562-7500  
Fax: 404-562-7162  
Internet: [www.CMS.gov/RegionalOffices/05\\_RO4.asp](http://www.CMS.gov/RegionalOffices/05_RO4.asp)

### **Advocacy Organizations**

Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association) maintains a referral and information center and can help you locate local chapters. These local groups have information about community services and engage in national and State level advocacy. For more information about the association, write or call:

Mental Health America Resource Center  
2000 N. Beauregard Street - 6th Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22311  
Phone: 703-684-7722  
Toll-free: 800-969-6642  
TDD: 800-433-5959  
Fax: 703-684-5968  
E-mail: [infoctr@nmha.org](mailto:infoctr@nmha.org)  
Internet: [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org)

The National Alliance on Mental Illness maintains a helpline for information on mental illnesses and referrals to local groups. The local self-help groups have support and advocacy components and offer education and information about community services for families and individuals. For information about the Alliance's affiliates and activities in your State, contact:

NAMI Florida  
911 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Phone: 850-671-4445  
Toll-free: 877-626-4352  
Fax: 850-671-5272  
E-mail: [namifl@namifl.org](mailto:namifl@namifl.org)  
Internet: [www.namifl.org](http://www.namifl.org)

Statewide consumer organizations are run by, and for, consumers of mental health services and promote consumer empowerment. These organizations provide information about mental health and other support services at the State level and are active in addressing and advocating for mental health system issues. For information about consumer activities in your area, contact:

May Rand, Executive Director  
Florida Consumer Action Council for Mental Health, Inc.  
3255 Bliss Road  
Orange Park, FL 32065-6803  
Phone: 904-264-6398  
E-mail: [info@fcacmh.org](mailto:info@fcacmh.org)  
Internet: [www.fcacmh.org](http://www.fcacmh.org)

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse, funded partly by the Center for Mental Health Services, promotes and helps to develop consumer-run self-help groups across the country. Technical assistance and materials are available on such topics as organizing groups, fundraising, leadership development, incorporating, public relations, advocacy, and networking. For more information, contact:

The National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse  
1211 Chestnut Street, Suite 1207  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-751-1810  
Toll-free: 800-553-4KEY (539)  
Fax: 215-636-6312  
E-mail: [info@mhsselfhelp.org](mailto:info@mhsselfhelp.org)  
Internet: [www.mhsselfhelp.org](http://www.mhsselfhelp.org)

The National Empowerment Center is a Technical Assistance Center run by mental health consumers/survivors. The Center's mission is to carry a message of recovery, empowerment, hope and healing to people who have been diagnosed with mental illness. The Center provides information and referrals to consumer/survivor resources nationwide and offers technical assistance to individuals and groups involved in consumer empowerment activities. The Center distributes recovery-related publications and sponsors education and training activities. For information on consumer/survivor activities in your area, contact:

The National Empowerment Center  
599 Canal Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
Phone: 978-685-1494  
Toll-free: 800-769-3728  
Fax: 978-681-6426  
E-mail: [info4@power2u.org](mailto:info4@power2u.org)  
Internet: [www.power2u.org](http://www.power2u.org)

The Consumer Organization & Networking Technical Assistance Center (CONTAC) funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, is a resource center for consumers/survivors and consumer-run organizations across the United States. Services and products include informational materials; on-site training and skill-building curricula; electronic and other communication capabilities; networking and customized activities promoting self-help, recovery, leadership, business management, and empowerment. For more information contact:

Consumer Organization & Networking Technical Assistance Center (CONTAC)  
P.O. Box 11000  
Charleston, WV 25339  
Phone: 304-345-7312  
Toll-free: 888-825-TECH (8324)  
Fax: 304-345-7303  
E-mail: [usacontac@contac.org](mailto:usacontac@contac.org)  
Internet: [www.contac.org](http://www.contac.org)

### Other Sources of Information

There are many sources of information that you can tap. Your area mental health authority, which is generally a part of the local government, may be useful. Other branches of your city or county government also may be able to help. For example, the education office might have information about help for children, and the agency for the aging might know about services for senior citizens. In addition, your family physician or area hospital may be able to make referrals. For legal advice, contact your local bar association or go to [www.findlegalhelp.org](http://www.findlegalhelp.org). Also, your local library and telephone yellow pages may have resource lists for sources of help in your community.

SRG-FL  
01/07